immediate relief measures through enhanced commission on telecom tariff handled by them; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The STD call charges for intra circle calls were reduced with effect from 14th January, 2002 as an additional package for the benefit of the users of telecom services. In the present scenario of competition among all the service providers, when long distance operation has been opened to private sectors, the call charges are bound to fall. Consequent to the reduction in these tariffs, representations from various sources including Federation of PCO operators in the country were received to increase the commission on PCOs and service charges. However, no guarantee whatsoever was given to the franchisees, for any definite earnings or income out of operation of Local/STD/ISD/PCOs. Even in the agreement signed with the franchisees, this aspect has been made very clear. At present, there is no proposal to enhance the rate of commission to the franchisees. Moreover, with reduction in rates, the traffic is expected to go up. In fact, observations taken in February indicate that while rates have been brought down by around 60%, the metered call units have gone down by only 20% clearly indicating the compensatory effect of the increased traffic.

Penalty imposed by courts in U.P.

† 1184. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of officers and employees of Telecommunications Nigam in U.P. have been found guilty by some of the courts and consumer protection fora for negligence;

(b) whether these courts have punished them and imposed a

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

penalty on the Department;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of such cases have come to light in Mainpuri (U.P.);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take any action against such officers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof end by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In one case, the court has punished two officers and imposed penalty on them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of 27 cases decided during the current financial year, only in 13 cases, court has imposed fine on the department and in one case punished two officers. The details are given in the Statement. *(see below)*

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Appeals have been filed in the State Consumer Protection Forum and they are pending. On the basis of the outcome of these appeals suitable action as per departmental rules and procedures will be taken.

Statement

Details of cases in which court has imposed fine on the Department in Mainpuri District

SI. No.	Case No.	Name of Party	N ature	Decision (in Rs.)	Action
1.	113/2001	Ram Prakash Rajput	Disconnected diue to Non-Payment 37053	2000'-	Appealed in higher court
2.	277/2001	Kaptan Singh	Foulty-31113	1500/-	•do-

SI. No	Case No.	Name of Party	Nature	Decision (in Rs.)	Action
3.	203/2000	Hari Krishna Pal	New Telephone Connection-provided on 5.1.02	1500/-	Appealed in higher court
4.	229/2001	Rai Kumar	New Telephone Connection	1000/-	-do-
5.	32/2001	Shiva Pal Singh	New Telephone Connection	1500/-	-*do*-
6.	74/2001	Arbind Singh	Faulty 36015	5500/-	-do-
7.	96/2001	Banaras State Bank, Mainpuri	Shifting 40137	51,000/-	-do-
8.	217/2000	Shailendra Kumar Yadav	New Telephone Connection	1500/-	-do-
9.	55/2001	Narendra Kumar Tewari	Faulty Telephone	5500/-	-do-
10.	114/2001	Rama Kant Saxena	New Telephone Connection	10,500/-	-do-
11.	246/2001	Smt. Manorama Gupta	Excess Billing Case	1000/-	-do-
12.	226/2001	Rajendra Prasad Pachauri	Excess Billing Case	1500/	-do-
13.	(a) 189/2000	Ajit Kant Mishra	New Telephone Connection	1000/-	-do-
13.	(b) 12/2001	-do-	Section-27 against non-compliance of 13(a)	20004 + 20004 & 6 Months Imprison-ment	Appealed in higher court and stay has been granted on 14.12.2001.

Slowdown in IT sector

1185. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the slowdown in the IT sector after the 11th September, 2001 attack in USA;

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at and the steps taken to bolster the IT sector;